

## ROBERT HENRY AND SOPHIA JOHNSON SWAIN

Robert Henry Swain was born on March 19, 1832, at Elkam, Kent, England, son of William and Mary Swain. He married Maria Jensen, Julia Anna Johnson and later her sister, Sophia Johnson, whom he married in the Endowment House in 1877. Sophia was

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born in Ertmark, Sweden, on November 30, 1855, the ninth child of Jonas and Christena Bringleson Johnson. Robert died on November 18, 1895, at Buysville. Sophia died October 6, 1917, at Daniel.

Robert Henry Swain grew to be a tall man, measuring well over six feet. Because of this he was chosen to be a bodyguard to Queen Victoria.

He joined the LDS Church at the age of 21, and loved it to the extent that, when his first wife could not see fit to join, he left her and their two children and sailed on the ship "Belle Wood" in 1865, working as a cabin boy for his passage. Robert came straight to Salt Lake, settling in the Eleventh Ward.

He was a talented musician and this gift was shared with others throughout his lifetime. He sang and led the choir and played the violin, clarinet and piano. He was a stone cutter by trade, and labored 10 years on the Salt Lake Temple. He also was a carpenter, blacksmith, harness maker, and made his children's shoes.

He married Maria Jensen, and they gave freely of what they had to help other saints to come to Utah. One of these was Julia Anna Johnson, whom he later married. They sent money for her sister Sophia to come also, and in due course he married her in the Salt Lake Endowment House in 1878. To these three wives 20 children were born.

Because of the Manifesto, Robert was forced to leave Salt Lake and, with his two wives and families, moved to Heber Valley in late April, 1888. Sophia was established in Buysville and Julia in Heber. Here he continued his trade, building many of the fine homes in the valley. He also built the Heber Hospital.

His fourth wife, Sophia Johnson, was born

## HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

in Ertmark, Sweden, on November 30, 1855, the ninth child of Jonas and Christena Bringleson Johnson. Her father was baptized in the Church in May, 1865, and in November, 1866, she, her mother and two sisters joined the Church. They were converts of Charles P. Carlen.

She and Robert became the parents of eight children, five of whom were born in Salt Lake and three in Buysville. They are: Ephraim, Agnes Sophia, Eli, Joseph F., Arthur, Walter Edward, Maude Christena, and Mary Blanche.

Robert died in November, 1895, of an occupational disease. The night of his burial snow was eight inches deep. Sophia was left with eight little children, from nine months to sixteen years of age, to support and forty acres of land to care for. Times were hard and money scarce, but she bore these hardships with dignity and devotion. She worked in the fields with her boys, often irrigating barefoot in icy water because she had no boots. She did washings for 50 cents each, which she rubbed on the board.

Always cheerful, regardless of her trials, she was true to her principles. God, her family and her friends; was never cross, always working unmindful of her own hardships. She strove constantly for her family. She knew they had faults, but never became angry or reminded the children of them. Her advice to them was, "Never do anything or go any place you couldn't take your mother with you and feel proud of your actions."

In the evening she would sit in a chair and rock back and forth, looking into space. Her thoughts must have been frightening—eight little ragged and half-starved children playing on the floor.

She was just what the Lord had in mind when He placed woman on earth and told her to multiply and replenish the earth.

Julianna Johnson, who was born June 11, 1849, at Ertmark, Dahlsland (County), Sweden, married Robert Henry Swain about 1873. She was the daughter of Jonas and Christena Bringleson Johnson.

Their children were: Alma, Abner, Enoch, Julianna, Samuel, Hyrum, Heber C. and Emanuel.

The boys were all brick makers and built with brick and were carpenters. They were all good musicians.

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